Program Requirements Comparison

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE TRACK
and
KENTUCKY EXCEL MASTER LEVEL

National Environmental Performance Track (NEPT) and the Kentucky Excellence in Environmental Leadership (EXCEL) are voluntary programs designed to foster and reward environmental excellence. Performance Track is a national EPA program and EXCEL is a statewide Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance program. This fact sheet summarizes and compares requirements for the two programs, focusing on the Master level of the EXCEL program. For additional information on these programs or incentives, see program web sites or contact program coordinators.

Common Program Requirements:

- *EMS Components*: Common elements include: an EMS with a written policy, planned targets and goals, clear roles and responsibilities for meeting goals, plans for checking and correcting non-conformance issues, and documented management review.
- *EMS Self-Assessment:* Facility must conduct regular EMS self-assessments and compliance audits.
- *EMS Independent Assessment:* Facility must have a third party perform an independent assessment prior to program entry.
- *EMS Cycle*: Facility should have one full cycle including implementation, evaluation, and review at the time of application.
- *Compliance Record:* Facility must pass a comprehensive compliance screen covering federal, state, and local regulations.
- *Self-Certification:* Senior facility manager must certify that all statements in application and annual reports are true, accurate, and complete.
- *Future Performance:* Facility must make four commitments to future environmental performance improvements.
- *Annual Report:* Report must address progress toward meeting goals.
- *Membership Term:* Membership is for three years.

KY EXCEL - Additional Requirements:

- *EMS Independent Assessment:* Facility must provide a summary of assessment results to KY EXCEL prior to entry and must agree to address any concerns in a timely manner.
- *Future Performance:* Project summaries must identify the audience most likely impacted by the project and must include input measures to track the project's level of effort.
- *Small Business:* Small businesses are not eligible for a reduction in the number of commitments required allowed by Performance Track.
- *Community Outreach:* Facility must make an annual commitment to participate in at least one outreach or educational activity.
- *Mentorship:* Facility must agree to mentor another member.

Web Site: http://www.dca.ky.gov/kyexcel/
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Performance Track - Additional Requirements:

- *Past Performance:* Facility must demonstrate performance improvements for two environmental indicators.
- *Future Performance:* Commitments must be made in a minimum of three areas, be reported in a standard format, and performance must be normalized. Commitments are for three years. Community outreach activities cannot be counted as commitments.
- *Community Outreach:* Facility must have a plan for responding to community concerns and must inform the community of important matters which affect it.
- *Community References:* Community references are required.
- *Annual Report:* Facility must include reporting on EMS performance and audits.
- *Site Visits*: Periodic site visits of members are conducted as part of the program.

Web Site: www.epa.gov/performancetrack
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